



countdown

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Shuttle processing under way for next year's missions



◆ **Shuttle Update: Endeavour** is scheduled to begin its piggyback return trip from California on Monday, with its arrival at KSC no earlier than Wednesday. Look for possible arrival time in Tuesday morning's *Countdown*.

Discovery is being prepared in OPF Bay 3 for a January 7 rollover to the VAB. Payload bay closeout inspections are complete; midbody and aft closeouts are in progress.

◆ **NASA News:** NASA has signed a \$141 million modification to the current International Space Station contract with the Russian Federal Space Agency for crew transportation services planned through the spring of 2012.

The firm-fixed price extension covers comprehensive Soyuz support, including all necessary training and preparation for launch, crew rescue and landing of a long-duration mission for three station crew members. The crew members will launch aboard two Soyuz vehicles in the fall of 2011. They will land in the spring of 2012. The flights may be used to meet NASA's obligations to its international partners for transportation to and from the station.

The contract extension also provides for the two Soyuz flights to carry limited cargo to and from the station and dispose of trash. The cargo allowed per person is approximately 110 pounds launched to the station, approximately 37 pounds returned to Earth, and trash disposal of approximately 66 pounds.

■ **NASA Updates on iTunes** — Video updates reporting progress made on

NASA's newest family of exploration vehicles -- the Ares I crew launch vehicle and Ares V heavy cargo launch vehicle -- are now featured on iTunes.

The Ares quarterly progress reports offer viewers a rare glimpse at the ongoing development work of the next-generation launch vehicles that will take explorers to the moon and beyond in coming decades. Beginning in 2015, the Ares I rocket will launch the Orion crew capsule, carrying astronauts and payloads to the International Space Station.

iTunes is the place to get an up-close look at the Ares rockets and learn more about key engine, hardware and system milestones as the rockets proceed through the design, review and development processes.

The quarterly video progress reports, produced since August 2006, have been used to visually share progress with the NASA team at all levels and to record the historical work being completed on America's newest fleet of spacecraft for future generations. Now, in an effort to share the Ares development with a broader audience, NASA is posting the full library of reports on iTunes. The programs range in length from five to 15 minutes.

To view the Ares quarterly progress reports on iTunes, visit:

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=296275310>.

■ **NASA Exchange Services Office** — Starting Monday, employees may purchase area attraction tickets and KARS Park memberships and pay for KARS Park reservations in the Employee Ser-

NASA signs new contract with Russia for ISS support

vices Office (ESO)/Room 1201 on the first floor in the HQ building. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call BJ Rosburg at 867-4321.

■ **Health for the Holidays** — With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. The December 2008 HEWP packet covers holiday-related health issues related to food safety, healthy eating tips, stress, depression, and fitting in physical activity.

The monthly health education table will be set up **today** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the O&C Cafeteria.

■ **Mixed Office Paper Recycling** — Did you know that KSC's mixed office paper recycling program accepts a variety of paper products? Acceptable items include white and colored bond paper, Post-It® notes, manila and colored file folders, notebook paper, adding machine paper, computer paper (with green bars), business cards, all envelopes, stationery (including colored ink/letterhead), KSC Bulletins & *Spaceport News*, and other non-coated office newsletters, fax paper (plain paper or thermal).

Please place these materials in the mixed office paper recycling containers. Stapled material is acceptable, but please remove paper clips if possible.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.